

● Labour accused of ‘sweetheart deal’ ● Leaders face Paxman grilling in TV showdown

# Corbyn vows to listen on second poll bid

## REFERENDUM

MICHAEL SETTLE  
UK POLITICAL EDITOR

JEREMY Corbyn has been accused by the Conservatives of offering a “sweetheart deal” to Nicola Sturgeon after saying he would “open discussions” with her about a second Scottish independence referendum if he won power.

The Labour leader’s remarks came after Theresa May suggested the First Minister would “pull the strings” in any minority Labour government and demand, as the price for propping it up, a second vote on the Union.

This is the same campaign warning David Cameron made two years ago when Tory election posters showed the then Nationalist leader Alex Salmond as puppet-master to Ed Miliband. Conservative HQ believes the tactic helped the Tories over the line in 2015, confounding the pollsters to win a majority.

Mr Corbyn has sought not to repeat what commentators believed was his predecessor’s electoral mistake of taking weeks to rule out any kind of coalition or pact with the SNP should there be a hung parliament.

On Monday, he again said: “There will be no deals. There will be no alliance. We’re fighting this election to win. Only Labour or the Tories can win this election and voting Labour is the only way to remove Theresa May from office.”

But later the Labour leader was pressed on what would happen if he ended up in Number 10 and Ms Sturgeon demanded another vote on Scotland’s future.

Mr Corbyn replied: “I’ll obviously open discussions with the government in Scotland and listen very carefully to what the Scottish Parliament says.”

“I would ask them to think very carefully about it and suggest it would be much better to have this question dealt with at the conclusion of what are very serious and very important Brexit negotiations, where I am utterly determined to achieve tariff-free trade access to the European markets to protect manufacturing and service jobs all across the UK.”

In March after the Scottish Parliament mandated Ms Sturgeon to seek a parliamentary order from the UK Government enabling a second referendum on independence to take place, the Labour leadership was clear Westminster should not stand in the way of the demand. But Mrs May insisted now was “not the time” to hold another independ-

ence vote given the Brexit talks were about to begin while the Tory manifesto talked of the withdrawal process needing to be “played out” and public consent given before a second poll on the Union could take place. This signalled the PM’s intent not to facilitate a plebiscite in the next parliament which means until after 2022 at the earliest.

While Ms Sturgeon stressed the “reality” of the election meant a Labour victory was unlikely, the SNP leader, noting how she would be launching her party’s manifesto on Tuesday, told Sky News: “If there is any chance of a progressive alliance that locks the Tories out, I would want to get as much of the SNP manifesto implemented as possible.”

It is believed top of her wish-list would be holding a second independence referendum.

On the campaign trail in Twickenham, a Tory marginal, Mrs May mocked Ms Sturgeon. To laughter from party activists, she said: “I believe she said yesterday she didn’t think Jeremy Corbyn was capable of being prime minister

“**I’ll open discussions with the government and listen carefully to what the Scottish Parliament says**

but, at the same time, also said that she would prop him up and push him into government.”

Meantime, Ruth Davidson claimed the SNP leader was “desperate for a second referendum” and suggested it “looks like a sweetheart deal is in the offing”.

The Scottish Conservative leader said: “Nicola Sturgeon has said she’d put Jeremy Corbyn into Number 10. Now Jeremy Corbyn says he is happy to ‘open discussions’ with her about a second referendum. Labour voters in Scotland now know Jeremy Corbyn would tell them down the river. I will never fold against him. Sturgeon’s demand for a second referendum. It is clearer than ever only by voting Scottish Conservatives can we send her a message to take it off the table.”

One of the most prominent background figures in Scots, if Mr Corbyn’s remarks about “opening discussions” about a second independence referendum, a Labour spokesman said the party leader would have talks with SNP ministers “about all Scottish issues”. “Labour firmly opposes a second independence referendum,” he added.



IAN MURRAY: Labour’s Edinburgh South candidate with Harry Busby, seven, at a ceramic store in the capital’s Marchmont area. Picture: Gordon Terris



NICOLA STURGEON: The First Minister keeps a firm grip on baby Oily Firth while visiting Lossiemouth alongside the SNP’s deputy leader Angus Robertson. Picture: Peter Jolly



PHILIP MAY: Theresa May’s husband campaigns in London. Picture: Steve Parsons/PA



WILLIE RENNIE: The leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats sees the funny side as he and this

● SNP pledges on austerity and Brexit ● Apology to voters in fight for just three seats

# Harvie says sorry for lack of Green candidates

## GREENS

TOM GORDON  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Scottish Greens have apologised to the tens of thousands of supporters denied a chance to vote for them.

Launching the party’s manifesto, co-convenor Patrick Harvie said he was “sorry” to Green voters around the country who, like 95 per cent of the electorate, did not have a Green candidate in their constituency.

The party is standing in just three of Scotland’s 59 Westminster seats – Falkirk, Edinburgh North & Leith and Glasgow North, where Mr Harvie is the individuals.

After putting up 31 candidates in 2015 and withholding funds this year from every seat except Glasgow North, the pro-independence party has been accused of standing back to help the SNP. The party denies this and says it lacks the money to do more.

At a cafe in Glasgow, Mr Harvie said the campaign was “tightly-focused” to give Scotland the best chance of electing a Green MP.

He said: “I’m sorry to many Green voters around the country who don’t have a chance to vote Green and I know many of them have been coming down to help in Edinburgh North and Leith, in Glasgow, and in Falkirk, where we are able to stand candidates.”

Tory environment spokesman Maurice Golden said the Greens were “pathetic” and wanted “to help the SNP cling on to as many



LAUNCH: Lorna Slater, the Scottish Greens candidate for Edinburgh North and Leith, with the party’s co-convenor Patrick Harvie in Glasgow. Picture: Mark Gibson

Put all of those issues to your candidates and judge them as individuals.”

The manifesto backs a second independence referendum to give Scots an alternative to a “hard Brexit UK”, and says Green MPs would continue to push for freedom of movement and the re-tensions of European Union environmental regulations outside the EU.

The manifesto said 200,000 new jobs in Scotland came from a low carbon economy centred on renewables, energy efficiency and oil industry decommissioning in the North Sea.

The other Green candidates are Lorna Slater in Edinburgh North and Leith and Debra Pickering in Falkirk, a decision said to be based on resources.

Elsewhere on the campaign trail, Scottish LibDem leader Willie Rennie dressed as Marty McFly from the Back To The Future films to accuse the SNP of recycling old promises.

Posing by a DeLorean car in Edinburgh West, Mr Rennie highlighted a new SNP postcard showing the £1.3 billion Queensferry Crossing and the slogan Building A Better Scotland.

In its 2016 Holyrood manifesto, the SNP said the bridge was “on time and on budget”. It is now due to open around eight months late.

Mr Rennie said it was a prime example of how the SNP over-promised and under-delivered.

Appealing for tactical votes from Tory and LibDem supporters, Scottish Labour launched a new online advert claiming only they could stop the SNP next week.

Ian Murray, Labour’s candidate in Edinburgh South, said: “The Tories just aren’t at the races – and a vote for them or the LibDems will just let the SNP back in.”

“**For some, the issue of climate change will be top of the priorities. Put all of those issues to your candidates**

## Sturgeon launches manifesto with vows on austerity, Brexit and Scotland’s future

### SNP

NICOLA STURGEON will today put pledges on austerity, Brexit and Scotland’s future at the heart of the SNP’s manifesto launch.

Addressing activists in Perth, the First Minister will say a vote for SNP MPs will give Scotland a strong voice to reshape the country’s future.

“I would ask them to think very carefully about it and suggest it would be much better to have this question dealt with at the conclusion of what are very serious and very important Brexit negotiations, where I am utterly determined to achieve tariff-free trade access to the European markets to protect manufacturing and service jobs all across the UK.”

In March after the Scottish Parliament mandated Ms Sturgeon to seek a parliamentary order from the UK Government enabling a second referendum on independence to take place, the Labour leadership was clear Westminster should not stand in the way of the demand. But Mrs May insisted now was “not the time” to hold another independ-

party offers protection against deeper cuts.

She said: “If the SNP wins this election, it will strengthen the country’s hand when it comes to opposing cuts, defending our place in Europe, and on choosing our future as a nation.”

However the pledge on Brexit appears to have been watered down since mid-May, when Ms Sturgeon said a vote for the SNP would force the UK to include the Scottish Government “at the Brexit negotiating table and make the Tories ‘are still on course to win the election’ and only her

Prime Minister Theresa May swiftly rejected the idea and Ms Sturgeon now says a vote for the SNP will ensure Scotland is “heard at the top table”.

The Tories and Labour will use the launch to turn the spotlight on the SNP’s record.

Tory leader Ruth Davidson will publish plans to improve school standards and “reset” the Curriculum for Excellence, demanding Ms Sturgeon focus on “education, not separation”.

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale will also publish a dossier highlighting what she called the SNP’s “decade of failure”.

## Election News Brief

### Ukip leader would back internment

UKIP leader Paul Nuttall has suggested he would be prepared to back the detention without trial of suspected terrorists.

Mr Nuttall said he “wouldn’t take anything off the table” to deal with violent extremism.

“When you read there are suspected 23,000 jihadis living among us, obviously MI5 are stretched to capacity,” he told BBC1’s The Andrew Neil Interviews. “We’ve got to look at ways of ensuring our people are safe whether that is a return to control orders, tagging... maybe a return to internment.”

### Sorry for ‘shot’ remark in Cox constituency

A CONSERVATIVE candidate contesting murdered MP Jo Cox’s former seat blamed a “tiring day” for telling a hustings: “We’ve not yet shot anybody so that’s wonderful.”

Ann Myatt has apologised for her “ill-judged” comments which

### Carlaw sets target for 12 Scottish seats

THE Scottish Tory deputy leader said it would be “great” if his party could win six to 12 Scottish seats in the General Election.

Jackson Carlaw said there has been a “change in atmosphere” as he insisted there are several seats with a “very strong prospect” of a Conservative victory.

If the Conservatives win 12 Scottish constituencies on June 8, it would be the party’s best result for more than three decades.

### May joins Goldsmith on voters’ doorsteps

THERESA May and husband Philip have been knocking on doors with “very strong prospect” of a LibDem win in a bid to win back the seat he lost last year.

Mr Goldsmith, the Tories’ failed London mayoral candidate, triggered a by-election in Richmond Park, resigning and standing as an independent over Heathrow expansion. He lost the seat to LibDem Sarah Olney.

## May accused of being a ‘blowhard’

Continued from Page 1

Labour’s plan for “managed migration” it would not go up but would “probably” come down from its current level of around 250,000.

He stressed how the contribution to living standards by migrant workers was “huge”.

Under her own questioning from Mr Paxman, the Prime Minister insisted she was determined to do the right thing for the country, referring to her reputation as a “bloody difficult woman”.

“We need to have a government that is open about these things and is willing to find ways of addressing them.”

“If in order to address them and do the right thing by the country, it takes being a difficult woman, then that’s exactly what I will be.”

Mrs May also reaffirmed that she would walk away from the Brexit negotiations without a deal rather than accept a “bad” deal.

“In negotiations, you have to recognise you’re not in there to get a deal at any price.”

## Jezza avoids a stuffing from Paxo but PM is in line of fire as grand inquisitor finally wakes up



REVIEW  
ALISON ROWAT

SHE would not share a stage with him, he would not debate without her, and so it came to this: a joint but separate stuffing by Paxo. Turkeys voting for Christmas or what?

Ah, but some wondered if Jeremy Paxman was these days more butter knife than carving fork. Sure, he had once kebabs David Cameron on food banks and basted Ed Miliband as a “north London geek”, but that was two years and one General Election ago.

Now the erstwhile Ron Burgundy on steroids was facing Theresa “Vicar’s daughter/National Trust member” May, and Jeremy Corbyn, whose hobby is photographing manhole covers. The only danger here, surely, lay



THERESA MAY: Smiling before start, but audience laughed at her.



JEREMY CORBYN: Helped to adjust Paxman's tie before event.

in Paxo being bored to death. Before going head to head with the stuffer-in-chief, each leader had to face the studio audience. Confronted with Corbyn, they seemed quite pleasantly surprised that he did not have a forked tail. Leaning jauntily on the podium, the Labour leader looked as if he had just popped in for a cheeky red. Sinn Fein, nukes, taxes, migration: Jezza just wanted to buy the world a drink and teach it to sing in perfect harmony.

Next up, Paxman v Corbyn. The former Newsnight anchor started off at 11 on the harumph-ometer and stayed there. His line of attack was that Mr Corbyn had not been radical enough. “There’s nothing in here about getting rid of the monarchy!” puffed Paxman. “It’s not in there because we are not going to do it,” trilled Jezza, who added that some of his best friends were constitutional monarchs. Not much of a glove laid.



## Constituency profile: East Renfrewshire



GERRY BRAIDEN

BLAIR McDougall can stake a claim to be the man who saved the UK.

The pro-Union Better Together victory was not by the margin needed to bury the Scottish independence clamour for a generation.

And his beloved Labour Party, an organisation he has been immersed in for his entire adult life, paid a heavy price for its association with the Tories.

But it was tough and go as the vote loomed, the No side won and Mr McDougall, as the Better Together campaign director, can claim credit for that.

One of the most prominent background figures in Scots, if Mr Corbyn’s remarks about “opening discussions” about a second independence referendum, a Labour spokesman said the party leader would have talks with SNP ministers “about all Scottish issues”.

“Labour firmly opposes a second independence referendum,” he added.

frontline now, contesting his home constituency of East Renfrewshire, the archetypal New Labour area held by friend and former boss Jim Murphy for the best part of two decades. It was a solid No area in 2014 and pro-Remain in 2016, ideal, one would imagine, for Mr McDougall to capitalise on an election narrative where referenda again hang heavy. But he has a problem. A 31-year-old, who only joined the Conservatives less than two years ago, Paul Masterton was driven by fears over constitutional uncertainty and is tipped as the potential favourite. This must bug Mr McDougall? “In a crowded marketplace of sending Nicola Sturgeon a message there’s a clear choice between an albeit very nice lad from Paisley or the person who ran the No campaign in 2014 to do that,” he says. “The Tory narrative about me is I’m an irrelevance. For an irrelevance they’re talking about me an awful lot. All things being equal I need one in four of their votes to win.”

Firstly, the SNP vote is down. That surge and enthusiasm has arguably the biggest shock of the SNP’s 2015 landslide with



Jim Murphy losing to unknown SNP rookie Kirsten Oswald.

Between 2010 and 2015 the SNP surged from third-place also-ran to a victory over the then Scottish Labour leader by several thousand votes.

The result also exposed other local dynamics. Far from its reputation as one of Scotland’s most prosperous areas, where New Labour tussles with the Tories, “East Ren” has swathes of middle-earning and public sector workers paying over-the-odds mortgages to give their children access to some of the country’s best schools and lovely shops but it is also an area where a lot of people struggle.”

Directly across the road from Mr McDougall’s campaign HQ Kirsten Oswald is running her bid for re-election.

A scrap for the Unionist vote is no bad thing for the former

college HR manager, allowing her to come up through the middle. But colleagues describe her as diligent and in two years at Westminster has a reputation for a constituency focus.

Brexit, Ms Oswald insists, is a doorstep issue. The area attracts many overseas nationals, with worries mounting over the impact of withdrawal from the EU and, she says, noises coming from a Conservative Party fast making inroads into Ukip’s vote.

“Voters recognise our obvious position on the EU, on refugees,” she says. “The message is resonating on the doorstep and people want a strong voice for Scotland being heard at Westminster. They appreciate what we’ve done in the past two years. They want someone listening to them, responding.”

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## Lawyers drop legal ruling bid over Brexit

### CASE

A LAWYER and three politicians have dropped their legal challenge in Ireland on whether Brexit is permanent.

Papers were lodged in the High Court in Dublin earlier this year in an attempt to seek a ruling on the issue from the European Court of Justice.

But Jolyon Maughan, QC, director of the Good Law Project, said the length of time the challenge will take and costs involved have forced them to ditch it.

Some £70,000 raised through crowd-funding for the case will be spent on legal fees incurred, with whatever is left over going to other Brexit challenges or charity.

“Along with the other plaintiffs, I have taken stock of progress made on the Dublin case, its prospects going forward and changes in the wider political setting,” he said. “With regret, we have agreed between us and with Ireland that the litigation should be discontinued.”

## Paxman disarmed with a royal reply as PM ill-at-ease

MICHAEL SETTLE  
UK POLITICAL EDITOR



JEREMY CORBYN appeared for the most part calm and relaxed. He seemed most uncomfortable answering questions about his “open support” for the IRA.

When Paxman tried to upend the Labour leader on his republicanism, Mr Corbyn cheerfully said getting rid of the monarch was not in the manifesto and he had had a cordial meeting with the Queen.

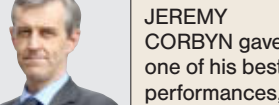
May looked far more ill-at-ease. Asked about the dreaded “dementia tax” the Prime Minister negotiated the difficult issue well and was strongest on Brexit.

WINNER: Jeremy Corbyn

## The Verdict How they compare

### No flinching from radical policies as Corbyn stays calm

TOM GORDON  
POLITICAL EDITOR



JEREMY CORBYN gave one of his best performances, handling audience questions calmly and confidently and, unlike Theresa May on social care, never flinching from his own radical policies. Some lines, like the listening leader, were clearly pre-cooked, but delivered well. However, he looked weak on the Falklands and defence of the realm.

Mrs May was less at ease as a series of public service workers criticised her over cuts. Worse, she was laughed at repeatedly. More authority drained away as Mr Paxman raised her multiple U-turns.

WINNER: Jeremy Corbyn

### May left struggling as Labour leader airs key messages

STEWART PATERSON  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



THE Labour leader provided answers to all the questions asked and got his key messages out.

On his supposed weak points, security and the IRA, Jeremy Corbyn provided explanations but the fact the questions are being asked may still prove a difficulty for the Labour chief.

Theresa May was under pressure on schools funding in England and had to admit police numbers had fallen and would not say they would be increased.

She struggled on the cap on social care, unable to put a figure on it.

WINNER: Jeremy Corbyn